

Given a selection with many details, the reader locates the exact detail which completes a given sentence.

UNIT 10
Lesson 1
Understanding Details

TECHNICAL TALK

Many stories and articles about science and history are full of details such as names and figures. It is difficult to remember all of them. Try to pick out just the few that you need to know. Look at the questions you have to answer before you start reading. This gives you a purpose for reading. You may want to read just one paragraph at a time.

TRY IT

Read the following sentences about Rembrandt, the famous painter. Before you actually read, look at the sentence with the two blanks which follows the selection. What information should you try to remember?

Rembrandt was a very famous Dutch painter who was born in 1606. When he was about 12 years old, he started to study painting. One of his most famous paintings is named *The Night Watch*. He died at the age of 63 in 1669.

Rembrandt was a _____ painter who lived to be _____ years old.

If you answered with the words "Dutch" (or "famous") and "63" for the two blanks, you were right.



QUITO: QUEEN CITY OF ECUADOR

For further practice read this selection and complete the exercise which follows.

One of the most beautiful cities of South America is Quito. It is the capital and second largest city of Ecuador. Quito's population is over 600,000. The city is situated in a valley about 9,500 feet above sea level. It was settled centuries ago by the Inca Indians. It was captured by Spanish soldiers in the early 1500's. Now Quito has several large factories which manufacture lace, woolen clothing, wool carpets, and related items. There are old and new parts of the city.

_____ is the capital of Ecuador and is located about _____ feet above sea level. It is the _____ largest city in the country. The _____ Indians settled the city centuries ago.

Did you get all four answers right on lesson 1? If you did not, perhaps you did not read carefully enough. The following selection relating to pandas provides further practice. Be sure to look at the questions carefully before you read the selection. That way you will have a purpose for reading. Check your answers with the key. If you need further help, be sure to check with your teacher.



IS A PANDA A BEAR?

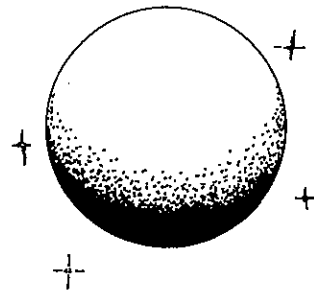
You may have seen the panda in a zoo or a circus. Contrary to popular belief, the panda is not a bear but is a member of the raccoon family. Pandas live naturally near the tops of the isolated mountains of Tibet and western China in Asia. Because this area is so isolated, few people have ever seen these animals in their natural home.

The adult panda may weigh as much as an adult man and is about six feet tall. Panda fur is mostly white with areas of black in the legs, the shoulders, the ears, and in circles around the eyes.

The panda is a very good climber and goes to the tops of trees to eat tender shoots and leaves. It even eats small animals if they get in its way. The mother panda may have as many as two babies.

There is a smaller-sized panda called the lesser panda, which is more the size of a pet housecat and is found mostly in India. This animal has a long, full tail and lives in old, hollow trees. It has red fur and a white head. Like the regular panda, it can climb tall trees to find leaves and other food to eat.

1. The panda lives naturally on the continent of _____.
2. This animal is not a bear, but really belongs to the _____ family.
3. The colors of the panda's fur coat are _____ and _____.
4. The lesser panda is _____ in size than a regular panda.
5. A mother panda may have as many as _____ babies.



NEPTUNE, THE COLD PLANET

All of us know about planets. You are living on one, the planet earth. How much do you know about the other planets in our solar system? This selection tells about one of the most interesting bodies in the heavens. Read the material and then see if you can find the right words or phrases for the blanks in the items which follow the selection.

Neptune is almost three billion miles from the sun and has a temperature of about 350 degrees below zero on the Fahrenheit scale. There are many ways that Neptune is different from the earth. It is over four times wider than the earth and is seventeen times heavier.

It was not until 1846 that Neptune was discovered by scientists. Two astronomers, one from England and one from France, provided the information which led to the discovery of the planet. Later scientists found that the planet had two moons, or satellites, that revolve around it.

Would it be possible to live on Neptune? It would be far too cold. Neptune's atmosphere contains little or no oxygen and large amounts of methane gas. There would be nothing to eat since plants cannot grow on the planet.

1. Neptune is _____ times wider than the earth.
2. The planet was discovered in _____.
3. It would be impossible to live on Neptune because of the lack of _____ and _____.
4. Astronomers from the countries of _____ and _____ provided the information that led to the discovery of Neptune.
5. The planet has _____ moons.

HOW DID YOU DO?

